

My name is Jerrol A. Pope. I am a corporate officer and Program manager for Community Vision Economic Development (CVED). CVED is a California Tax exempt community development corporation.

Our Mission is to

1. Develop economic activity in the local community which will attract new and enhance existing businesses and to promote an entrepreneurial spirit that will create jobs and improve income levels for community members
2. Facilitate education and job training programs which encourages a higher level of self-sufficiency among the community, especially among our youth
3. Provide investment capital for low-income communities and low-income individuals

CVED provides technical support to community-based groups and individuals who want to become formally organized and coordinate funding for those organizations. In exchanges for this technical support, The effectiveness of our efforts will be measured by the number of new businesses and new jobs created.

Our Certifications

CVED has tax-exempt status under IRS Section 501 (C) (4). Because of this status we are allowed to interact with for-profit organizations and receive administrative fees from such organizations. In addition, the State of California has granted tax-exempt status for educational purposes.

CVED is a Certified Community Development Entity (CDE) by the Community Development Financial Institution Fund of the Department of the Treasury. This certification allows us to develop programs that utilize one-for-one dollar match and New Market Tax Credits.

Our Business Model

CVED Business model is intended to blend private and public funds for economic development purposes. CVED consults with community leaders to see which needs or initiatives emerge in the community. Each Initiative will have its own for-profit corporation which will sell shares or

memberships and raises funds for a dollar-for-dollar match from the Federal Government, for the purpose of providing start-up loans for new businesses.

Our future plans can be measured by the

- Number of community initiatives and projects that we help develop
- Number of Investors and the amount of fund raising
- Number of new and expanded businesses
- Number of Jobs Created

We consider our organization as an emerging CDFI, for the third year in a row, In that we provide extensive business training and start-up loans for new business. Our target market is the entire county of San Diego.

Our current program is called Veterans Business Initiative, LLC. We assist any veteran (community-based organizations or low income persons) to start their own business. We can sell considerable number of memberships in the LLC to support this work, especially with the interest of the dollar-for dollar match for financial assistance and the New Markets Tax Credit program. We need technical assistance to help increase our capacity. Yet we are prohibited from receiving technical assistance because we currently do not have enough capital on hand based on current CDFI-Fund requirements. We suggest that the Fund relax the financial requirements and use more funding for technical assistance to emerging CDFI's.

Moreover, it appears that most of the CDFI funds are being directed toward residential or commercial real estate development, instead of economic development activity. It appears that the funds are being allocated to companies that are already heavily capitalized with total disregard to new developing organizations coming on line. Those already heavily capitalized companies are investing those funds in other states rather than the state which the funds were intended for. May we suggest that funds be required to be used in a specific target market.